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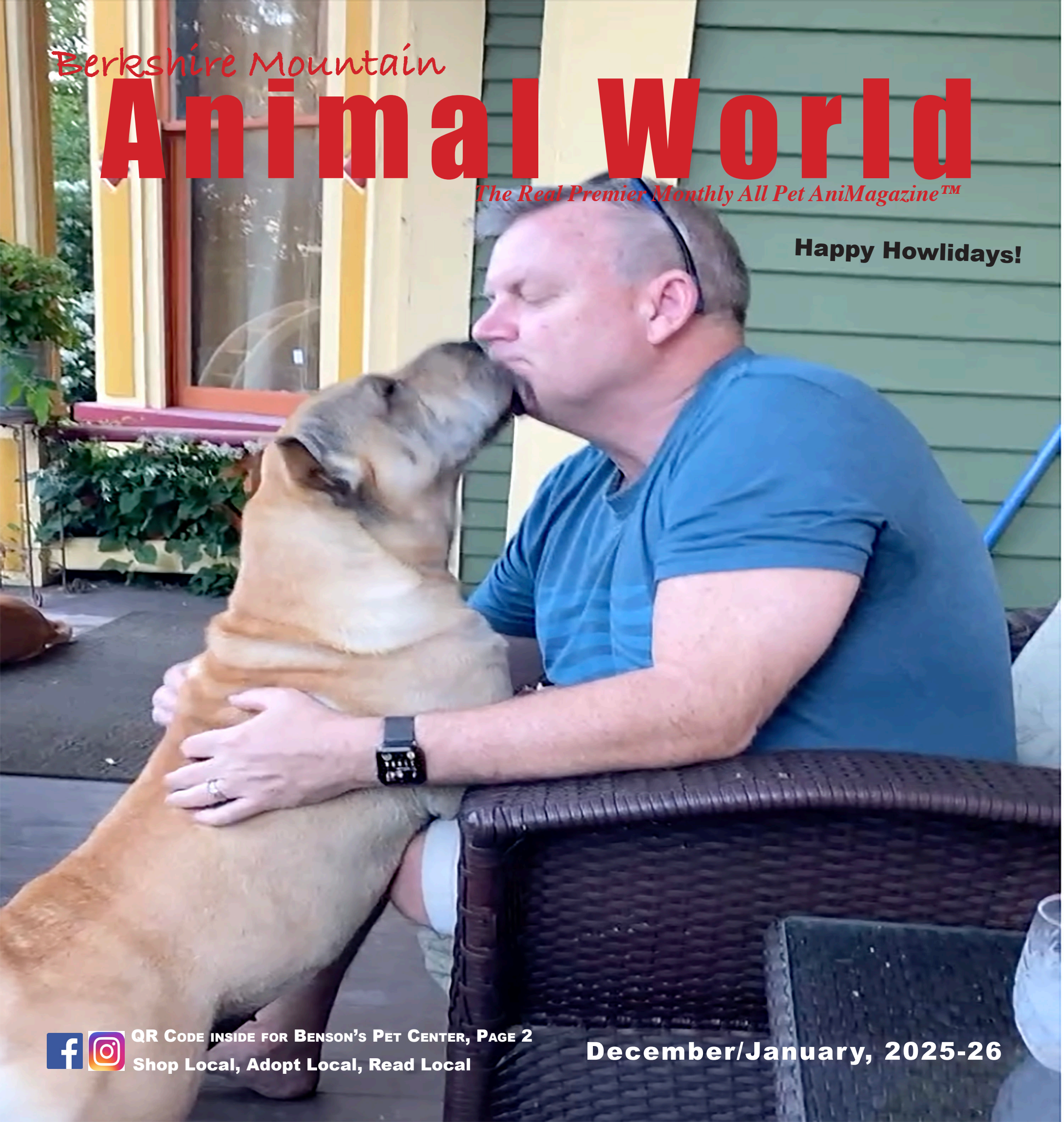

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December/January, 2025-26

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SOCKS is a 3-year-old neutered male domestic shorthair who arrived at Berkshire Humane Society after he was found as a stray. Socks can take a bit of time to warm up, but once he does, he's a friendly boy who likes to be his own boss. He would do best as the only cat in a home with teens and older due to his independent nature. If you think he may be the right match for you, please fill out a cat adoption application and speak to Berkshire Humane Society's feline staff directly. - (413)-447-7878 ext. 124

Columbia-Greene HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

NEWSBITE

The Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA is pleased to announce that longtime supporters Russ Gibson and Duncan Calhoun have generously committed to matching all donations made now through Christmas Day, up to $25,000. This match is being offered in memory of their beloved dog Nora, who sadly crossed over Rainbow Bridge two days after her ninth birthday.

Their donation will directly support the Zamboni Fund, which provides critical assistance to the shelter's free Pet Food Bank and low-cost veterinary clinic. This fund was established by Russ and Duncan originally in loving memory of their cherished Shar-Pei, Zamboni.

Donors wishing to have their gifts matched are asked to clearly indicate "CGHS Matching Gift" or "CGHS Christmas Match" on all donations, whether made by mail or online.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Warner at 518-828-6044 ext. 109 or Rebecca@cghs.org.

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Paws to Reflect

As much as I wanted to write a memorial last month for Jane Goodall, I could not. Her impact on my life was enormous. She shared her courage, her strength, her values and her love, as though we were all her friends.

I did meet her some years ago when Monument Mountain School in Stockbridge, Ma, held a lecture series and she was a guest lecturer.
At the time, I was publishing Animal Life Publication so I shared one with her. I was hoping she would read it but I have no idea if she even looked at it! She was so busy and she signed my t-shirt which I still have!

In honor of Jane Goodall and her legacy, I wrote a poem and placed it on page 8.
Have a wonderful holiday season, no matter what you celebrate.

Give your pets a hug for me!! Gayle

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Front Photo Credit: This is Duncan and his beloved pup, Nora. Russ Gibson and Duncan Calhoun have generously committed to matching all donations to Columbia Greene Humane Society made now through Christmas Day, up to $25,000 in memory of their beloved dog, Nora, who sadly crossed over the Rainbow Bridge two days after her ninth birthday. See Newsbite on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

15 Dog Breeds That Can't Handle the Cold

By Erica Puisis

Most dogs jump at the opportunity to spend time outside (the more walks, the better!). But for some dog breeds that can't handle the winter chill, their enthusiasm for outdoor activities drops as temperatures dip.

Some breeds aren't equipped for cold weather because they have low body fat, a short coat, or experience breathing problems when the temperature is too low. But large or small, all dogs need exercise (and potty breaks!), so you can't give up on outdoor excursions all winter long.

Here's what you need to know about dogs who are sensitive to the cold, and what you can do to keep your pup safe and comfortable.

Key Takeaways

• While some dog breeds were bred to thrive in the snow, others aren't built for cold weather.

• Dogs who can't handle the cold often have a short, thin coat; flat face; or low body fat.

• Pet parents should always monitor their dog for signs of distress, especially in cold temperatures.

• Dog clothing, blankets, warm bedding, and booties can all help keep dogs warm in winter.

1. American Pit Bull Terrier

Size: Medium

Life expectancy: 12–14 years

Temperament: Active, loyal, eager to please

American Pit Bull Terriers are energetic dogs who love outdoor activities, but they're far from snow dogs. These pups have a short, thin coat that offers little insulation, so they get cold easily.

Because a Pittie will still have plenty of energy regardless of the weather report, invest in a good-quality dog coat for daily walks. And don't forget booties to protect their paws, too.

2. Basenji

Size: Small

Life expectancy: 13–14 years

Temperament: Aloof, clever, energetic

Basenjis originated in Africa, and their short, smooth coat isn't a match for plunging temperatures. When it's too cold to venture outside for long, puzzle games and training exercises are ideal for these smart dogs. Keep activities novel and the stakes high with a special treat to ensure your Basenji stays interested!

3. Boxer

Size: Large

Life expectancy: 10–12 years

Temperament: Active, easygoing, silly

As a flat-faced dog breed, the Boxer has a shorter-than-average muzzle that can make it harder to breathe comfortably in cold weather conditions (and in hot weather, too).

Because Boxers are high-energy dogs, pet parents should stay alert for signs of breathing issues during play and exercise.

4. Bull Terrier

Size: Medium

Life expectancy: 12–13 years

Temperament: Energetic, funny, silly

Expect a Bull Terrier to be up for any outing—except when temperatures start to fall. These short-haired dogs aren't well-prepared for cold conditions and would rather stay snuggled up on the couch than face the snow.

But because obesity can be a problem for the breed, don't slack off on regular exercise. Put a doggy sweatshirt on your four-legged friend and keep up your walking routine

5. Chihuahua

Size: Extra small

Life expectancy: 14–16 years

Temperament: Charismatic, chatty, cheeky

The itty bitty Chihuahua is one of the smallest dog breeds, weighing only 4–6 pounds. So it's no surprise that these dogs can't handle cold weather.

They often shiver when cold and might need to wear a cute sweater, even when they're inside. In fact, if you ever can't find your Chihuahua, look under a blanket—they probably burrowed underneath for warmth.

6. Chinese Crested

Size: Extra small

Life expectancy: 13–18 years

Temperament: High-spirited, Velcro dog, sensitive

The Chinese Crested is a small, typically hairless dog (though some have a thin coat of white fluff), and the little fur they do have isn't enough to keep them warm in winter.

But there's good news: Because Cresteds are so small, they can often get enough exercise with indoor playtime—try fetch, hide-and-seek, or other dog-friendly games right in your living room.

7. French Bulldog

Size: Small

Life expectancy: 10–12 years

Temperament: Quirky, bubbly, affectionate

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Frenchies are the most popular dog breed in the U.S., but they're not cut out for cold weather. Their flat face makes breathing in extreme temperatures difficult, and their short coat doesn't offer much warmth.

So on winter walks, make sure your pup is bundled up and keep outdoor excursions short.

8. Great Dane

Size: Extra large

Life expectancy: 7–10 years

Temperament: Affectionate, calm, goofy

Great Danes may be one of the biggest dog breeds, but they don't hold up well in cold weather due to their short coat and very little body fat.

Because they need 30–60 minutes of daily exercise, keep them warm with an extra-large dog coat and break up their activity into shorter walks so they're not outside for long.

9. Greyhound

Size: Large

Life expectancy: 10–13 years

Temperament: Gentle, laid-back, independent

Take one look at a Greyhound and you'll see that these dogs are built for speed, not snow. With an ultra-lean body and a very short coat, Greyhounds lose heat quickly when temperatures dip. Suit up your Greyhound with a jacket when heading outside in winter, and consider dog boots to keep your pet's paws ice-free.

10. Italian Greyhound

Size: Small

Life expectancy: 14–15 years

Temperament: Alert, playful, sweet

Small and slender, the Italian Greyhound also has very little body fat to insulate against chilly weather. Because of this, these dogs don't do well in the cold without extra gear like a jacket or sweater.

They might even need a layer of doggy clothing when indoors, especially if it's drafty.

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11. Miniature Pinscher

Size: Extra small

Life expectancy: 12–16 years

Temperament: Clever, cheerful, class clown

Small in size but big in personality, the Miniature Pinscher is a spunky pup who loves to play all day. But running through snowdrifts isn't ideal for this breed. Instead, schedule indoor playtime with toys and treats to keep them happy and mentally stimulated.

12. Pharaoh Hound

Size: Medium

Life expectancy: 12–14 years

Temperament: Energetic, clever, selectively affectionate

The Pharaoh Hound has a sleek, chestnut-colored coat that gleams in the sun, which is where this breed feels most at home.

These hound dogs thrive in warm climates, thanks to their Egyptian origins. When cold weather strikes, get creative to provide these active, sporty dogs with the exercise they crave.

13. Pug

Size: Small

Life expectancy: 12–14 years

Temperament: BFF, friendly, optimistic

Pugs are one of the most easily recognizable dog breeds thanks to their super-squishy face and abundance of wrinkles. But these cute traits also mean Pugs struggle in very cold (and very hot) temperatures.

Fortunately, Pugs tend to be homebodies. Keep walks short in cold weather and use indoor games to keep your Pug active and healthy—instead of letting them turn into a couch potato.

14. Whippet

Size: Medium

Life expectancy: 12–15 years

Temperament: Social, intelligent, athletic

The Whippet shares many similarities with their Greyhound and Italian Greyhound relatives, so it's no surprise that these dogs also dislike cold weather.

These sleek sight hounds have a very thin coat and little body fat, making it easy for them to lose body heat when temperatures drop.

15. Xoloitzcuintli

Size: Small to medium

Life expectancy: 13–18 years

Temperament: Loving, loyal, alert

It's easy to see why the Xoloitzcuintli can't handle cold weather. Also known as the Mexican Hairless Dog, Xolos have thick, smooth skin and usually no fur, though some have tufts of hair on the head, tail, and feet, and a few are born with a flat, short coat of fur on the body.

Like other hairless dogs, you'll need to keep a Xolo insulated against cold temperatures with proper doggy clothing when venturing outside and provide soft, warm bedding for your dog to snuggle into indoors. *www.chewy.com*

This Side of Purradise

by Iris Bass

Two Colorful Companions

Two mature ladies with beautiful fur (one tabby, one tilting more toward tortie) seek a quiet home in which to enjoy the rest of their lives, after a bit too hectic an existence with a busy family.

Meet Patches, age 10, and Lillie Mae, 12 (respectively, about 58 and 65 in human years), who are sweet-natured, if a bit shy for now, in need of calm and loving care. The staff at Berkshire Humane Society believes that, in the right household, even perhaps with respectful teenagers or even a cat-friendly dog, they will blossom into the true selves they are now still too cautious to fully reveal.

An indoors-only environment without a lot of bustle or changes would be best. So would your sitting back for a while to let them take in their new surroundings—soft fleeces and kitty beds for them to snuggle on, perhaps a large carton on its side for them to retreat to if feeling overwhelmed, some low-volume music and quiet talk—as you let them grow accustomed to your presence and decide that they'd really like to come to you! Regular routines would help, too, to give some predictability to their days. Work on using the same words to greet them or refer to various aspects of your household (e.g., come bed); try adding a few improvised hand signals, such as to pat a surface that you invite them to jump onto (e.g., your lap). Perhaps they are now at an age when they won't learn new tricks per se, but are not too old to recognize and appreciate what feels good and safe and SEEN. Indeed, they are far from elderly, so don't forget providing cat-safe toys . . .and maybe a pinch of catnip on a rug they can roll on, as a reward or encouragement. No cat is too advanced in years to welcome comfort and joy! Patches and Lillie Mae can't talk to tell you what they may have been through prior to coming to the shelter, but they will certainly show you, by coming over to cuddle or eventually speaking to you, that they appreciate being, if not fully the center of your attention, certainly comfortably and eventually confidently in one of its innermost rings.

Patches (left) and Lillie Mae (right). Copyright © 2025 Berkshire Humane Society

Iris Bass, coauthor of the Cat Lover's Daily Companion, shares her Lee home with two shelter cats. Please contact Berkshire Humane Society's main shelter at 214 Barker Road, Pittsfield, MA, 413-447-7878. Confirm its hours before heading over, or check out https//:berkshirehumane.org to read more about Patches and Lillie Mae, or the other cats currently available for adoption there or at Purradise, 301 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA, 413-717-4244. Purradise is open for both adoptions and boarding.

Columbia-Greene HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Pictured with CGHS/SPCA Animal Care Technician Amy Riedel is **COLE**, a gorgeous Rex Rabbit who was surrendered to us at no fault of his own. His unique grey and black colors make him stand out in a crowd. Cole is a sweet boy who enjoys being held and spending time with his humans! He spends his days lounging around or stretching his legs while playing with small toys.

Please call with any questions.

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Columbia-Greene HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Soft Paws
By Charlene Marchand

Give a new dog owner a great holiday gift! Dogs love dens. They go together like kids and candy. They're meant for each other. My wolfy babies love to stretch out under tables and scrunch under bureaus and beds if they can squeeze in. When outside, they curl up under trees with low-hanging branches, big bushes, and the small space under the back stoop. When my pups were three weeks old, I put chairs and small, doorless crates in the play room, and consistently find the kids snuggled under and in these "man-made" dens.

In my family room, a Great Dane crate with the door open has been a permanent fixture. When the gang came in after dinner, my new-to-the-household guests were amused and fascinated to watch four adult German Shepherd Dogs trying to cram into the crate first, to claim ownership.

Many years past, the advent of the crate as a housebreaking tool revolutionized early potty training. Most "raised in the home" breeders like myself, introduced the little ones to nighttime crating at seven to eight weeks of age. My pups were put to bed on newspapers and a soft towel, accompanied by their bit-sized shank bones. Each animal had his or her own "den," never two pups in the same crate.

Whimpers alerting us to "the call" were responded to by lights on, followed by the potty run. With luck, we'd all settle in for another 2 to 3 hours of shut-eye. Occasionally there was a "miss," the misses were ignored, the not-so-silent signal to go was consistently rewarded, and our overachieving canine kids were well on their way to learning the intricacies of bowel and bladder control; i.e., to hold it!

In addition to a positive and effective housebreaking tool, most crate-trained pups grew up to be relaxed and reliable house dogs, with or without access to their youthful, cherished dens. Unless - and here comes the inevitable "unless" - this practice was carried to the extreme: the old "too much of a good thing" motto. Like the delicate juggling act which must be rehearsed daily for us to maintain balance in all things, responsibility must be assumed by us for our beloved companions, especially where crating and time decisions are concerned. Those beautiful, accurate, visual images of a den of wolves, coyotes, foxes and more, instinctual by nature, can be tainted by inappropriate and excessive confinement decisions made on behalf of our domesticated dogs. We are presently facing a crating crisis – an epidemic – called "too much of a good thing" gone bad.

Crates are safe havens, with consistent rewards, never to be used as "punishment." The cardinal rule is always one dog per crate. Separate and equal make for pack-compatible living relationships among multiple canine households. Don't overdo a good thing!

To be continued, to cover confinement and separation distress.

Feel free to call us with any questions at (518) 828-6044 or visit our website at www.cghs.org. Our Food Bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are $110.00 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the shelter for a donation of $10 for cats and $15 for dogs (currently prepaid only). Charlene Marchand is the Chairperson of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. She may be contacted at cghsaaron@gmail.com.

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HORSE CORRAL

A Dramatic Rescue for Injured Thoroughbred Philip Seymour

By Alex Valverde, Equine Advocates Communications Manager

In early October, Equine Advocates came to the rescue of a malnourished and seriously injured six-year-old Thoroughbred located more than 300 miles away from our sanctuary. He had ended up in the hands of a horse dealer, which meant he was at risk of being sold for slaughter, especially given his poor condition. We decided to name him "Philip Seymour" after the late, great dramatic actor, since his life leading up to his emergency rescue was one filled with drama, as well as uncertainty.

Philip was born in Kentucky on March 30, 2019, and raced eleven times under the name of "Garitoff." Unfortunately, the information we have on his background ends there. We don't know what happened to him from the time he ran his last race in 2023 until October 8, 2025, when we took over his care. As soon as we picked Philip up, we transported him to Cornell University Hospital for Animals in Ithaca, New York, where he underwent skin graft surgery on a huge open wound on his right front leg. This entailed taking many small pieces of skin from his neck and transplanting them directly into the leg wound to promote new skin growth. He also underwent extensive testing and received treatment for his other health issues, which thankfully are curable. After spending 22 days in the hospital, he arrived at the sanctuary on October 29th.

"I am very happy that we were able to act quickly and come to Philip's rescue," said Equine Advocates President Susan Wagner. "There would have been a much different and tragic outcome if we had not heard about his situation. This kind of throw-away mentality that still exists in this country will not change until Congress finally passes a federal law banning the slaughter of horses for human and animal consumption."

Since he arrived, Philip has made remarkable progress adjusting to his new home. His wound has been healing well, and he's been gaining weight, which is great considering how malnourished he was when he was rescued. He gets daily hand walks inside our Main Barn to help him get exercise and maintain musculature as he recovers. When weather conditions are ideal, Philip also gets supervised turnout in the paddock attached to his stall. Unfortunately, Philip's story is not uncommon, and we have years of experience caring for rescued former racehorses.

"The horse industry as a whole needs to do much more to prevent the abuse and neglect of the equines it breeds. At Equine Advocates, we focus on Responsible Horse Guardianship as part of our Humane Education Program, as well as by example. Students and visitors get to see firsthand exactly what is involved in having a horse, as well as recognizing incidents of equine abuse and how to report them."

We plan to introduce Philip to a herd of Thoroughbred Geldings next spring or sooner if we have a mild winter in upstate New York. We look forward to seeing this young Thoroughbred fully recover and live out many years in his new, safe home at our sanctuary.

Here is a poem, dedicated to Jane Goodall.
An article was printed in the October issue of BAW.

To Jane Good-All, All Good, Good-bye©

By Gayle S.

Traveler, century, deathless heart,
Open and left for all to view
It all began for me, so young
watching on the black and white TV
She was so young,
spirited, determined.

There she was,
Jane of the Jungle,
all good,
Goodall,
Bigger than life
defining courage.

She found her voice
off she went,
creating a life amongst our equals,
the earth
the inhabitants.

Time marched from youth, I watched her often
Tales never ending of touching hearts.
I dreamed
I yearned to be her,
Or be me, with her,
Or me alone with chimps,
Touching them,
Breathing their air
Feeling their souls, hearts. If only one hug.

She pushed me forward, as a child
when life was dim
and later,
hope,
Springing to love to action.

The photographs in my mind,
Of her, the hugs, the hoots, the natural world
lingering resilience, nature gasping for air.

Passage of time
And now, here we are,
a devastating loss
of resilience and peace and compassion
Another gone who held our strength
In
humanity,
Our humility,
and our love.

12 Fun Holiday Traditions to Start with Your Pets

By Richard Rowlands

The holidays are a special time for families to come together and take part in festive traditions. And as a pet parent, including your furry family members in the fun can make the holiday season even more memorable.

In this article, we'll share 12 simple, fun, and meaningful holiday traditions that you can start with your pets. From preparing a holiday feast to organizing a festive playdate, these traditions will help strengthen the bond between you and your furry companions.

1. Dress-Up Day

Set aside a festive afternoon for a themed dress-up session with your pet. Look for comfortable costumes like reindeer antlers, Santa hats, or festive sweaters to get into the holiday spirit together. When picking out outfits, prioritize breathable fabrics and avoid anything too restrictive that could cause your pet stress. And make sure to provide plenty of praise and treats to maintain a positive experience.

2. Holiday Feast

Include your pet in your celebrations by preparing a pet-friendly holiday meal. Homemade options like plain, unseasoned turkey or chicken mixed with pet-safe veggies make a nutrient-dense dish. For dessert, consider making DIY frozen treats with pet-friendly ingredients like blueberries and apples. Just be sure to avoid any foods that could be harmful to your pet, such as chocolate and grapes.

3. Festive Photo Shoot

The holidays provide the perfect backdrop for capturing fun memories with your pet. Get creative with props, costumes, and holiday-themed backgrounds for a memorable photo session. If your pet isn't used to posing for pictures, have a friend or family member help by holding treats or toys to grab their attention. With a little patience and some tasty incentives, you'll have a holiday card-worthy photo in no time!

4. Pet-Themed Holiday Decorations

Let your creativity shine by crafting personalized pet Christmas ornaments featuring your pet's photos, paw prints, or favorite toys. These decorations can also make great gifts for fellow pet parents or a fun addition to your own tree. Just make sure to keep potentially hazardous items, like tinsel and glass ornaments, out of reach from prying paws.

5. Homemade Pet Treats

This holiday season, why not bake some nutritious homemade treats with your furry companion? Pet-friendly ingredients like xylitol-free peanut butter, mashed sweet potato, or unsweetened pumpkin puree will have your pet licking their lips. You could even invite your friends and their pets over for a festive treat exchange.

6. Neighborhood Caroling

Take an evening walk, visit neighbors, and enjoy the music and cheer with your pet by your side. Choose a familiar route, and keep your pet leashed at all times to ensure their safety. Whether you sing along or let your pet do the howling, it's a great opportunity to spread holiday joy and spend quality time with your furry friend.

7. Holiday Pet Movie Night

What better way to spend a cozy evening in than snuggled up with your pet, watching a holiday movie? Look for heartwarming family holiday classics that feature animals like Beethoven's Christmas Adventure or How the Grinch Stole Christmas. And don't forget to have plenty of treats and blankets on hand for a comfortable and relaxing experience.

8. Storytelling Evening

Set aside a special evening to enjoy reading festive tales to your furry friend. Create a cozy atmosphere by dimming the lights and speaking in a soothing tone, so your pet can fully relax. These small moments of connection can strengthen the bond between you and your pet, while also giving you a much-needed break from all the holiday busyness.

9. Special Holiday Training Sessions

If your pet enjoys learning new tricks, why not use the holiday season as an opportunity to teach them something special? With a little patience and some tasty treats, you can train your pet to perform simple tricks like shaking hands or rolling over. And the best part? You can show off your pet's new tricks to friends and family during holiday gatherings!

10. Holiday-Themed Playdate

Arrange a holiday-themed playdate for your pet with their furry friends and their humans. You can organize fun activities like gift exchanges, games of fetch with festive toys, or a holiday talent show. Not only will your pet have a blast, but you'll also get to mingle with other pet parents and strengthen your community.

11. Seasonal Scavenger Hunt

Create a scavenger hunt with holiday-themed items for your pet to find around the house or yard. Hide treats, toys, or other pet-safe items and guide them on an exciting hunt. It's a fantastic way to engage their senses and provide mental stimulation – not to mention, it's fun for you to watch!

12. Memory Book Crafting

End the holiday season by creating a memory book with your pet. Include photos, stories, and keepsakes from your holiday adventures. This is a wonderful way to cherish the memories you've created and look back on them in years to come.

Which New Holiday Tradition Will You Try with Your Pet? Now that you have so many tail-wagging ideas to choose from, which one sounds the most paw-some to try with your pet?

Whether it's baking together, crafting keepsakes, or snuggling up for a movie, spending quality time with your furry loved one is sure to create heartwarming memories this holiday season. So, go ahead and make new traditions with your pet – the possibilities are endless! *www.petplace.com*

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HOWLIDAYS

Weeks:

- Christmas Bird Count Week

Days:

- International Cheetah Day
- World Wildlife Conservation Day
- International Day of Veterinary Medicine
- National Llama Day
- Festival for the Souls of Dead Whales
- International Animal Rights Day
- National Day of Animal Rights
- Holiday Food Drive for Needy Animals Day
- National Day of the Horse
- Monkey Day
- Visit the Zoo Day

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518-828-6044

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Cold Weather Safety Tips

Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer. Winter walks can become downright dangerous if chemicals from ice-melting agents are licked off of bare paws. To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's health, check out our top 10 cold weather safety tips from our experts at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC).

1. Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.

2. Keep your home humidified and be sure to towel dry your pet as soon as they come inside. Repeatedly going into the cold and then comin back into a warm home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Pay close attention to their feet and in-between their toes and remove any snow balls from between their foot pads to prevent and treat skin irritation in the winter.

3. Massage petroleum jelly or other vet-approved paw protectants into paw pads before going outside to protect from salt and chemical agents. Booties can provide even more coverage and can also prevent sand and salt from getting lodged between bare toes and causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.

4. Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter. A longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply trim them to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry their skin, and don't neglect the hair between their toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting them a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly.

5. After each walk, make sure to wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals. Don't forget to check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes. You may also want to bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws.

6. Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.

7. Thoroughly clean up any anitfreeze spills. Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol. Additionally, cold weather chemicals like ice melts can be dangerous when ingested, so always be mindful and keep chemicals up and out of paws' reach.

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8. Feed your pet a little extra in the winter months. Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding them a little bit more can provide much-needed calories, and making sure they have plenty of water to drink will help keep them well-hydrated and their skin less dry.

9. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

10. Never let your dog off leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm. Dogs can lose their scent in the snow and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure your dog always wears an ID tag.

Be sure to keep these tips top of mind this winter so that you and your furry friends can stay warm, cozy and safe.

Columbia-Greene
HUMANE SOCIETY/SPCA

Alibi, or Allie, is an 8-year-old Belgian Malinois who was surrendered because she didn't get along with another female dog in the home. Don't let her age or her grey muzzle fool you; Allie is highly active and would thrive in a home that can give her plenty of stimulation and many games of fetch! She hasn't been tested yet with other animals, but we believe she'd do best as the only pet. She'll more than make up for it with her incredible love for human affection and loyalty! Allie is pictured with CGHS/SPCA Animal Care Technician/ Cruelty Investigator Kyle Miller.

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NEWSBITES

Berkshire Humane Society to hand out pet food at three county locations

Berkshire Humane Society will give out up to 1,300 bags of cat and dog food to pet owners in need during three drive-thru "Pet Food Pantry Holiday Help" events the weekend before Christmas. Times and locations are; Saturday, December 20th 9:00 am to 11:00 am at White House Square in Great Barrington, 325 Stockbridge Road; Saturday, December 20th 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Carr Hardware in North Adams, 179 State Road; and Sunday, December 21st 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Dr. John Reynolds Adoption and Education Center (main shelter), 214 Barker Road in Pittsfield.

Cat and dog owners can drive up to the distribution point and remain in their vehicle while someone takes their order and loads it into their vehicle. Cat owners will get a 6-pound bag of food and dog owners will get a 20-pound bag, no questions asked. The events are open to all, regardless of enrollment in Berkshire Humane Society's Pet Food Bank and are made possible by generous donations from Wendy and James Martin of the Martin Family Donor Advised Fund, the Eichenbaum/Archer Family Foundation and an anonymous private foundation.

"The holidays are a time for families. Those of us who love animals know that includes our beloved pets," said John Perreault, Berkshire Humane Society's Executive Director. "Cat and dog owners have told us they'll go without so they can feed their animals. No one, no animal, should go without food, especially during the holidays. Thanks to our generous donors, we have enough bags of kibble for 500 dog families and 840 cat families – more than 15,000 pounds of food, 5,000 pounds for each location!"

The Food Pantry Holiday Help events are part of Berkshire Humane Society's efforts to keep families together, to prevent people from feeling they must surrender their pet to the shelter. Other programs include the shelter's Pet Food Bank, to which drive-thru recipients may enroll; low-cost spay and neuter and other veterinary services at the Society's Wellness Clinic; and dog obedience classes at Family Dog School.

Berkshire Humane Society also accepts donations to provide pet food for more families in need. Monetary donations are preferred because the shelter has agreements with pet food companies to buy nutritious food at a bulk rate, feeding more animals per donor dollar. For more information about the drive-thru events or making a donation, call 413-447-7878.

Berkshire Humane Society
214 Barker Rd, , Pittsfield, MA 01201
Phone: (413) 447-7878, Berkshirehumane.org

Meet the dynamic duo of **Kyzer and Cali.** Kyzer is a 7-year-old male miniature poodle mix and Cali is an 8-year-old spayed female toy poodle mix. They're a bonded pair who will go home through Berkshire Humane Society's "Buddy Program". Kyzer is the more outgoing one of the pair. Cali is the shyer one of the pair and looks to Kyzer for confidence, but once she's comfortable, she loves to snuggle with you. They would do best in a home with children aged 10 and over. If you'd like to provide them with the retirement home they're hoping for, please reach out to Berkshire Humane Society's kennel staff for more information. (413)-447-7878 ext. 126

Pumkin is a handsome 4.5-year-old white and gray neutered male domestic shorthair. In his home, Pumkin lived indoors only and enjoyed sleeping curled up with his person. He doesn't mind being held for short periods of time and has a very curious nature. Pumkin would most likely prefer an adult-only or teens and older home. He also needs to be an only-cat. The staff describe him as a "cute loaf" and he'd be the perfect "Pumpkin Pie" to add a little sweetness to your life. If you think you may be interested in adopting Pumkin, please reach out to Berkshire Humane Society's feline staff directly at (413)-447-7878.

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Akita Rescue of Western New York, www.akitarescuewny.com
ALASKAN MALAMUTE
Alaskan Malamute Rescue of New England, www.amrone.org 413-429-7286 MA
AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER
PittieLove Rescue www.pittieloverescue.org
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Dog Wags-

Breeds from A to Z

Dog of the Month

Chinese Shar-Pei

The Chinese Shar-Pei from Southern China, is a medium to large-sized working breed originally used for guarding, hunting, and herding. Unfortunately, the breed's inherent strength and protective nature were exploited and the breed was later used for dogfighting. They were exploited by war and political turmoil in China in the 20th century. They nearly went extinct in the 20th century but made a comeback as popularity rose. Fortunately, in modern times, they've earned a much-deserved place as a devoted family companion.

Although best known for their deep wrinkled appearance, the Shar-Pei temperament is affectionate, loving, intelligent, alert, reserved, and courageous. They are also versatile and can even adapt to apartment living. They are loyal to family, but standoffish with strangers. Although they are serene, they will meet a perceived threat with tenacity and vigor. Your neighbors might not appreciate this breed's barking tendencies. These dogs need plenty of firm, consistent training.

Pawoscopes

Monthly Dog & Cat Pawoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sagittarius
November 23–December 21

Sagittarius is the third and final fire sign; those born under this sign are the seekers of freedom and adventure. Sagittarian pets have lots of energy and enjoy challenges. They also like to move around—and not just in the backyard, either. As they love action, these pets want you to take them with you when you go hiking or biking.

DOG-Sagittarius is the symbol of the traveler, the philosopher, and the student. Sagittarius canines often need room to roam and can feel anxious when they're forced to stay indoors. They are happiest being outside as much as possible. They have colorful and comical personalities and often make superb travel companions. Sagittarius dogs have wanderlust coursing through their veins! They delight in seeing the world around them, whether on their walks or road trips through the country. However, their curiosity can sometimes lead them astray.

CAT-If your cat was born under the mutable fire sign Sagittarius, ruled by lucky Jupiter, they're sure to be an adventurous feline who's all about exploring uncharted terrain—whether that's by wearing a leash and actually hiking alongside you or simply scouring exciting new pockets of the backyard or hiding spots throughout your home. Bigger is always better so your cat is a major fan of begging for even more play, more treats, and more attention. And because their sign is known to be rather unfiltered, this is one kitty you will be hearing alot from!

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